

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated polynucleotide comprising a GDF-9 regulatory element comprising a portion of a nonhuman GDF-9 gene capable of regulating expression of an operably linked gene in oocytes or testis, wherein the portion is selected from the group consisting of the first 10 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site or a portion thereof, the first 3.3 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site or a portion thereof, an intron, and the first 1 kilobase of DNA immediately 3' of the transcription termination site or a portion thereof, and wherein the portion said isolated polynucleotide is greater than 261 nucleotides in length.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the regulatory element comprises is derived from the first 3.3 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of the nonhuman GDF-9 gene, or a portion thereof, and is capable of promoting expression of the operably linked gene in oocytes or testis.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The polynucleotide of claim 1 wherein, the regulatory element comprises is derived from the first 300 base pairs of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of the nonhuman GDF-9 gene, or a portion thereof, and is capable of promoting expression of the operably linked gene in oocytes.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The An isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the regulatory element comprises comprising the first 10 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of a the nonhuman GDF-9 gene, or a portion thereof, and is capable of promoting expression of the operably linked gene in oocytes, but not in testis.

5-6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated ~~oocyte-specific~~ regulatory element capable of promoting expression of an operably linked gene in oocytes or testis, comprising derived from the first 3.3 to 10 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of a GDF-9 gene, or a portion thereof which ~~wherein said oocyte-specific regulatory element~~ is greater than 261 nucleotides in length.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated ~~testis-specific~~ regulatory element capable of promoting expression of an operably linked gene in oocytes, comprising derived from the first 10 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of a GDF-9 gene, or a portion thereof which ~~wherein said testis-specific regulatory element~~ is greater than 261 nucleotides in length.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Currently Amended)** The regulatory element of claim 8, wherein the said element comprises ~~is derived from~~ the region from 3.3 kilobases to 10 kilobases of DNA immediately 5' of the transcription start site of the a GDF-9 gene, and wherein said element downregulates expression of a gene operably ~~operatively~~ linked to the element in the testis.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An expression vector comprising the isolated GDF-9 polynucleotide of any one of claims 1-4, 1, 4, 5 or 6 ~~operably~~ linked to a gene.

12. **(Original)** The expression vector of claim 11, wherein the gene is a reporter gene.

13. **(Currently Amended)** An oocyte transformed with the vector of claim 11 ~~containing the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1, 4, 5 or 6.~~

14.-24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Currently Amended)** A testicular cell transformed with the vector of claim 11 ~~containing the polynucleotide of any one of claims 1, 4, 5 or 6.~~